

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

WHEREAS the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans has undertaken a multi-year program, the Sewer System Evaluation and Rehabilitation Program (SSERP), to identify and address structural and mechanical deficiencies in the wastewater collection system and to ensure that the system has adequate capacity; and

WHEREAS these improvements, currently estimated to cost \$499.1 million over a ten year period, are required to comply with Section XV-Clean Water Act Remedial Measures: Comprehensive Collection System Remedial Program of the Consent Decree between the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which was signed June 1998; and

WHEREAS two necessary sewer rate increases were approved between 1998 and 2002 to fund the Sewer System Evaluation and Rehabilitation Program (SSERP). While the Sewerage and Water Board has worked diligently to minimize the financial impact on ratepayers, additional funds will be needed to continue the program on schedule; and

WHEREAS the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program administered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was designed to accelerate investment in our nation's water and wastewater infrastructure by providing long term, low-cost, supplemental credit assistance under customized terms to creditworthy water and wastewater projects of national and regional significance; and

WHEREAS loans to fund the remainder of the SSERP may be available through the WIFIA program; and

WHEREAS funding the remainder of SSERP projects through a WIFIA loan would allow the Sewerage and Water Board to be strategic in its use of existing funds for other high-priority needs; and:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans that:

The Chief Financial Officer of the Sewerage and Water Board is hereby authorized to submit a WIFIA Loan Application (pre-application and application) in the maximum amount of \$120 million to the EPA on behalf of the Sewerage and Water Board for the purpose of placing sewerage system rehabilitation projects on the Project Priority List for funding through the WIFIA loan program. The Chief Financial Officer is further authorized to furnish additional information as may reasonably be requested in connection with the pre-application(s) and/or application.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Chief Financial Officer is hereby designated as the Official Project Representative for the District for any project that may result from the submission of the pre-application(s) and/or application.